



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Exchange Visitor Program

Anticipated SEVIS Release 5.1 System Changes

The Department is pleased to announce that, with Release 5.1, sponsors will be able to make certain changes in SEVIS records that previously required the assistance of the SEVIS Help Desk. Two options will be available:

The first option is that sponsors will be able to make changes to an exchange visitor's SEVIS status if the change is made within the first 30 days after the SEVIS status of a record has changed (i.e., sponsors can change the SEVIS status of an exchange visitor's record from Invalid to Active, No Show to Active, etc.). This option is referred to as "*Correct SEVIS Status*." If the status of an exchange visitor is not corrected within this timeframe, the "*Correct SEVIS Status*" option available on the exchange visitor's SEVIS record will be replaced with the "*Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status*" option.

The "*Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status*" option will be available on the exchange visitor's SEVIS record from day 31 through day 270. This option permits the sponsor to seek a change in SEVIS status from the Department of State. The *Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status* request will be handled in the same manner as a request for reinstatement to valid program status, which is currently in place. The request must be submitted via SEVIS and then followed up with the mailing of the request along with the supporting documentation and the required fee (as prescribed in 22 CFR 62.90(b)(3)). If a request for *Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status* is not submitted to the Department within the 270-day period, no further options are available to correct the SEVIS record.

At a minimum, the following documentation is required to be submitted in support of a *Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status* request: (1) a letter of explanation describing the need for the correction; (2) a copy of the Form DS-2019; and, (3) a copy of the Form I-94.

SEVIS will automatically cancel a *Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status* request if the Department does not receive the request, supporting documentation and required fee within 30-calendar days of the SEVIS submission date. The automatic cancellation of a request for a change of SEVIS status from "Active" to "Initial" will result in the status being changed to "Invalid."

Example: Ivana was issued a Form DS-2019 with a Program Begin Date of January 1, 2006. Ivana **entered** the United States on January 9th. If Ivana's SEVIS record is not validated before January 30, a SEVIS nightly maintenance job will change the status of Ivana's SEVIS record to "No Show." The Responsible Officer has until March 1 (30 days after the record changed to "No Show" status) to change Ivana's record to reflect the correct

status ("Active"). If the Responsible Officer does not make this correction by March 1st, the RO must submit a *Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status* request to the Department.

Sponsors have the regulatory responsibility for the monitoring and oversight of exchange visitors participating in their exchange visitor programs, including the appropriate maintenance of SEVIS records. The Department's Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation will continue to monitor the activity in these important areas. Reports developed in SEVIS will be used in reviewing requests for redesignation.

The following information provides more detail on the "*Correct SEVIS Status*" and "*Reinstatement-Update SEVIS Status*" options identified above:

30-Day Correction Period for SEVIS Status

- If the exchange visitor's (EV's) SEVIS status changed to Active, Invalid, or No Show within the past 30 days, the **Correct SEVIS Status** option will be available on the **Actions** menu to change the EV's status from:
 - Active to Initial
 - Invalid to Initial
 - Invalid to Active
 - No Show to Active

The EV's SEVIS status will change immediately when using this function. Also, if the dependent's status changed to Active, Invalid, or No Show on the same date as the EV's, the dependent's status will change to the same SEVIS status as the EV. For example, the EV and dependent's SEVIS status changed to Invalid on the same date and the **Correct SEVIS Status** option is used to change the EV's status to Active, the dependent's SEVIS status will change to Active at the same time.

30-Day Correction Period for SEVIS Status for Dependent

- The **Correct SEVIS Status** option on the **Actions** menu will be available to change the dependent's status to the same status as the EV if the dependent's status meets the following criteria:
 - Is currently Invalid, No Show, or Terminated
 - Changed to Invalid, No Show, or Terminated within the past 30 days
 - Does not match the status of the EV

The dependent's SEVIS status will change immediately when using this function.

Reinstatement - Update SEVIS Status Request

- The **Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status** option will be available on the **Actions** menu to submit a request to the Department of State (DoS) to change an EV's SEVIS status from:
 - Active to Initial
 - Invalid to Initial
 - Invalid to Active
 - No Show to Active
 - Terminated to Active—This type of status change can also be requested if it is less than 30 days since the EV's status changed to Terminated.

This option will be available if it is more than 30 days and less than 271 days since the SEVIS status of the EV changed to Active, Invalid, or No Show.

If the dependent's status *changed at the same time* as the EV's status, approval of this request will also affect the dependent's status. For example, the EV and dependent's SEVIS status changed to No Show on the same date, approval of the Reinstatement - Update SEVIS Status request will affect both the EV's and dependent's SEVIS status.

Reinstatement - Update SEVIS Status Request for Dependent

- A request may be submitted to DoS to change the SEVIS status of a dependent whose status changed to Invalid, No Show, or Terminated *separately* from the EV's status. For example, the EV's SEVIS status is Active and the dependent's status is No Show.

The **Reinstatement - Update SEVIS Status** option will only be available on the **Actions** menu for a dependent if it is more than 30 days and less than 271 days since the status of the dependent changed to Invalid, No Show, or Terminated.

Additional Enhancements for Exchange Visitor Programs

- The annual report will be corrected to more accurately reflect the program's activity.
- The expiration date on the Form DS-2019 will be updated to reflect the new expiration date of 4-30-2008.
- Transfer of an EV will not decrease the allotment of Forms DS-2019 for the transfer-in program.

- The RO/ARO will no longer be able to update the program end date when performing a Correct Minor or Technical Infraction for an Active EV.
- When DoS approves a reinstatement request for an EV the SEVIS status of the dependents will change to Active along with the status of the EV.

User Manuals for Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor Users (RO/ARO) of SEVIS

NOTE: The referenced User Manual sections will be updated to reflect the planned changes.

- Volume I Forms DS-3036 and DS-3037
 - Section 2.1, Complete the Designation Application (Form DS-3036)
- Volume II Form DS-2019
 - Section 2.10, SEVIS Correction Processes
 - Section 2.10.1, 30-Day Correction Period for SEVIS Status
 - Section 2.10.2, 30-Day Correction Period for SEVIS Status for Dependent
 - Section 2.10.3, Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status Request
 - Section 2.10.4, Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status Request for Dependent